

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPR-02 RSR-01 /029 W

----- 114917

R 021955Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8444

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FOR CU/ARA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC BR

SUBJECT: CODE 210 GRANTEE: DIP CHEREM, ARENA DEPUTY

1. DIB CHEREM AGED 44, ARENA DEPUTY FROM SANTA CATARINA, IS VICE LEADER OF HIS PARTY IN THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. HE IS A LAWYER AND ACCOUNTANT. A FORMER MAYOR OF FLORIANOPOLIS (1959) AND STATE LEGISLATOR (1959-67). HE IS STILL PRESIDENT OF SANTA CATARINA STATE COUNCIL OF TOURISM. OF LEBANESE EXTRACTION, HE IS A SHREWD, SOPHISTICATED INDIVIDUAL WHO GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND IS CAREFUL IN EXPRESSING CRITICISM OF THOSE ASPECTS TO WHICH HE OBJECTS. HE FAVORS THE CONCEPT OF "POLITICAL REOPENING," THAT IS, AN INCREASE IN POWER FOR THE LEGISLATURE AND RETURN TO MORE NORMAL DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AWAY FROM THE DOMINANT CONTROL OF THE EXECUTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THESE ATTITUDES ARE NOT EVIDENT FROM HIS PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS. CHEREM IS GRACIOUS AND SOCIALLY ACCOMPLISHED AND A POLITICAL COMER OF GROWING STATURE. HIS WIFE AND 15-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER WILL ACCOMPANY HIM. HIS ENGLISH IS SUFFICIENT FOR SOCIAL CONTACT BUT INADEQUATE FOR PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS. AN INTERPRETER WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR MOST OF THE VISIT.

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2. FOLLOWING ARE THE PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS CHEREM WOULD

LIKE TO DEVELOP DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

(A) HE IS INTERESTED IN THE MECHANICS OF HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS; THE ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH; THE INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES; THE FUNCTIONING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES; THE BUDGETARY PROCESS; THE STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE ACTIVITIES OF REGULATORY AGENCIES.

(B) HE WOULD LIKE TO SPEND TWO OR THREE DAYS OBSERVING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF A MEDIUM-SIZED (ABOUT 500,000) "TYPICALLY AMERICAN" CITY, POSSIBLY IN THE MID-WEST.

(C) HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT AND OBSERVE A STATE LEGISLATURE.

(D) CHEREM IS INTERESTED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INFRA-STRUCTURE DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL TOURISM. THIS INCLUDES AVIATION, RECEPTION OF VISITORS, DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALIZED MANPOWER, PUBLICITY, ETC.

(E) IF FEASIBLE, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT ONE OF THE TOP LAW SCHOOLS.

3. GEOGRAPHICALLY HE IS CONSIDERING--IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON--NEW YORK, MIAMI, AND SAN FRANCISCO, WITH A POSSIBLE STOP IN THE MID-WEST. HE WOULD NOT BE ADVERSE TO A STOP AT ONE OF THE GREAT NATIONAL PARKS OR ONE OF THE MORE SPECTACULAR DAMS ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT A HIGH PRIORITY. FROM A "TOURISM" STANDPOINT, HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STOP AT DISNEYLAND, AND HE DESCRIBES HIS WIFE AS AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSEUM HOPPER AND AVID SHOPPER. MRS. CHEREM DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. THEY ARE BOTH THEATER AND MOVIE BUFFS. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING AMERICANS IN THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENT AND PROFESSES NO NEED TO BE LIONIZED BY ANYONE OF NATIONAL STATURE. HOWEVER, HE WOULD ENJOY MEETING BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES, MAYORS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AS A MEANS OF COMPARING HIS BRAZILIAN MILIEU WITH THAT OF THE U.S.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL04111
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730759/aaaabrhg.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODE 210 GRANTEE: DIP CHEREM, ARENA DEPUTY
TAGS: OEXC, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005